



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Robert R. Neall, Secretary

STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Dr. Karen Salmon, State Superintendent of Schools

Child Care Center Closure Recommendations

4/14/2020

This guidance accompanies COVID-19 FAQs for Childcare Settings

Closure of a child care program should be based on CDC and Maryland Department of Health guidance, done in consultation with the local health department and with notification of the licensing specialist. This is not an exhaustive list of circumstances where a program should close. Details of each case may result in additional circumstances where a program should close as determined by local health department assessment of level of risk. Closure could be 14 days or more to allow for time to assess contacts for symptoms. Reopening decisions are done on a case by case basis.

Monitoring a child care program for possible COVID-19 requires close communication between program staff and parents. Parents should be encouraged to report illness within their household, children and themselves during drop-off symptom screening to help inform decisions related to site closure. Child care administrators should monitor absences among children and staff according to CDC guidance. Information regarding absences due to COVID-19 symptoms will assist child care programs when consulting with local health departments about closure.

At this time, the following is recommended:

A child care site should CLOSE if there is a LABORATORY CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASE or PROBABLE CASE (i.e., a person with symptoms of COVID-19 regardless of whether they are tested). This includes but it not limited to:

1. A COVID-19 positive staff member or child;
2. A staff member or child with COVID-19 symptoms but has not been tested **OR** was tested and still awaiting test results; or
3. A child, parent/guardian, staff member, or another person was in the child care site within 48 hrs. prior to developing COVID-19 symptoms, **AND** had [close, prolonged contact](#), as defined by the CDC, with center staff and/or children.

In each of the circumstances above, the child care program should immediately begin processes for closure, contact the local health department for consultation around duration of closure and additional actions to be taken, and notify the licensing specialist.



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NOTE: Children attending a child care program that needs to close due to a COVID-19 case or probable case should quarantine at home for 14 days and not seek child care in an alternative site. Program staff should also quarantine at home for 14 days. The development of COVID-19 symptoms in the program's children, parents/guardians, and staff should be monitored and reported to the program director during quarantine as this may impact when the program can re-open and when a child or staff member can return to the site.

NOTE: The length of time for closure should be determined in consultation with your local health department. Quarantine may be lifted/shortened, and the site may be able to reopen, if a person with symptoms of COVID-19 is tested for COVID-19 and results are negative.